International Gymnastics Hall of Fame

The International Gymnastics Hall of Fame honors excellence – and its power to inspire, to unify and to elevate the hopes and dreams of an entire planet...
...one tiny Olympic hero, one charismatic World Champion, one visionary sportsman and sportswoman at a time!

Our distinguished Honorees are among the most recognized and revered citizens in their native countries, and beyond. Indeed, several are on a first-name basis with world itself: Nadia. Olga. Mary Lou.

And so the purpose of the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame is a lofty and important one – to preserve, promote and share the achievements of our sport's greatest legends, so that future generations may continue to be inspired to achieve great things.
Master List

2013

Gina Gogean
Romania

1992 Olympics – BARCELONA: Team – Silver
1996 Olympics – ATLANTA: All-Around – Silver; Vault – Bronze; Balance Beam – Bronze; Team – Bronze
1993 World Championships – BIRMINGHAM: All-Around – Silver; Floor Exercise – Silver; Balance Beam – Bronze
1994 World Championships – BRISBANE: Vault – Gold; Floor Exercise – Bronze
1994 World Championships – DORTMUND: Team – Gold
1995 World Championships – SABAE: Floor Exercise – Gold; Vault – Bronze; Team – Gold
1996 World Championships – PUERTO RICO: Floor Exercise – Gold; Vault – Gold
1997 World Championships – LAUSANNE: Floor Exercise – Gold; Balance Beam – Gold; Vault – Bronze; Team – Gold
2012

Albert Azaryan

Zoltan Magyar

Kim Zmeskal

Natalia Shaposhnikova
Two Olympics, seven World Championships and a total of 19 medals – seven of those Gold – Lavinia Milosovici earned the respect of the gymnastics world as a completely balanced expert on all four apparatus. In fact, throughout her extensive career, Milosovici won a world or Olympic title on all four women's events – the first gymnast to do this since Vera Caslavska, of Czechoslovakia, accomplished this feat from 1964 to 1968. The first women's gymnast to do this was the great Larissa Latynina, and both Caslavska and Latynina are members of the IGHOF Class of 1998 honorees. Milosovici, whose career may never be matched for its longevity and consistency, is the only other gymnast in the world since to achieve this remarkable accomplishment.

Born October 21, 1976, in Lugoj, Romania, Milosovici is remembered and revered most for her longevity and her 4-event mastery. She also was the first gymnast since Nadia Comaneci, her childhood idol, to win all-around medals in consecutive Olympics – 1992 and 1996.

And while Nadia is credited with the first perfect 10.0 in the Olympics, in 1976, Milosovici's gold-medal winning perfect 10.0 in floor exercise, at the Barcelona Olympics, was the last.

The daughter of an Olympic wrestler father and volleyball player mother, Milosovici definitely had athletic genes. She was considered the backbone of the Romanian team in the mid-1990s, when it won back-to-back world team titles. It is well known that she gave everything that she had to secure Romanian dominance during this prolific period.

During the end of her career in 1996, Milosovici adjusted ably to the more stringent rules, a testament to her deep resource of natural talent.
Although Lavinia Milosovici never won a world or Olympic all-around gold medal, she remains one of Romania's best all-around gymnasts ever
1992 Olympic Games: Gold – Vault, Floor Exercise; Silver – Team; Bronze: All-Around
1996 Olympic Games: Bronze – All Around, Team
1991 World Championships: Gold – Vault; Bronze – Balance Beam, Team
1992 World Championships: Gold – Uneven Bars
1993 World Championships: Gold – Balance Beam; Silver – Vault
1994 World Championships: Gold – Team; Silver – All Around, Floor: Bronze– Vault
1995 World Championships: Gold – Team; Bronze – All Around
1996 World Championships: Bronze – Floor

Leonid Arkayev

Steffi Kraeker

Alexander Tkatchev
2010

Yuri Korolev

Henrietta Onodi

Mikhail Voronin
Romania endured much change after the fall of socialism near the end of 1989. Octavian Bellu took over as head women's coach, succeeding Adrian Goreac, and managed quite well, considering the new and uncertain circumstances throughout the entire Eastern bloc.

Octavian Bellu (b. February 17, 1951 in Ploiești) is the current head of the Romanian national women's artistic gymnastics team. He was the main coach with interruptions, between 1990 and 2005 and returned as head of the national team in 2010.

Highly successful, Bellu led the team to five world and two Olympic titles, as well as coaching numerous individual gold medalists - since 1990, Romania has been the most successful women's gymnastics power. He also coached such accomplished gymnasts as Lavinia Miloșovici, Andreea Răducan, Simona Amânar, Gina Gogean, Cătălina Ponor and Sandra Izbașa. During his time as head coach, his teams combined to win 82 World (59) and Olympic (23) medals.

In 2006 Bellu and Mariana Bitang were hired as advisors on the staff of Romanian President Traian Băsescu. Bellu was also the president of the National Sports Committee and a state secretary in the Ministry of Sports. Bellu was reinstated as head of the national team in 2010.

Octavian Bellu hit the 300 medals hallmark in European, World or Olympic Games after the Moscow 2013 European Artistic Championships and London Olympics.
Dominique Dawes

Viktor Chukarin

Elvira Saadi

Vitaly Scherbo
2008

Stoyan Deltchev

Ma Yanhong

Lilia Podkopayeva

Shuji Tsurumi
Romania's Simona Amanar may be remembered as the greatest beneficiary of the controversy-laden all-around final at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games, but she earned undisputable success in several other major competitions during her career.

Amanar's air sense, quick twisting ability and catlike landings made her a top competitor on vault and floor exercise. After tying for first place on vault at the 1995 World Championships, she won the gold medal outright on the event at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics (where she also tied for the all-around bronze medal) and the 1997 Worlds.


The Sydney Games were the last major competition of Amanar's career, as well as the most scandalous, although her designation as all-around champion was quite literally through no fault of her own. Midway through the competition, officials discovered that the vault had been set too low.

That discovery was too late for gold medal favorite, Svetlana Khorkina of Russia, who had crashed on the event. Amanar's teammate, Andreea Raducan, was the apparent winner, but she was later disqualified for taking a prohibited cold medicine. Amanar, who had finished just behind Raducan, reluctantly accepted the title.

A consummate team performer, Amanar helped Romania win four consecutive world team titles (1994-99) as well as the 2000 Olympic team title. She was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 2007.
"I would like to share this trophy with my teammates, because we worked together," said Amanar, during her induction speech. "They all deserve to share this trophy that I have."
2005

Svetlana Boguinskaia

Valery Liukin

Akinori Nakayama

Erika Zuchold
2004

Alexander Dityatin  Takuji Hayata

Helena Rakoczy

Heikki Savolainen

Yelena Shushunova
2003

Max Bangerter

Karin Janz

Dimitri Bilozertchev

Franco Menichelli

Kurt Thomas
Daniela Silivas, whose total of nine individual World and Olympic titles is a record in the sport of gymnastics, is one of the most popular gymnasts in history. The spritely Silivas first earned fame at the 1985 World Championships, where she took the gold medal on balance beam with a perfect 10.00 performance. She earned an upset victory over the Russians at the 1987 European Championships in Moscow, winning the overall title and three of the four individual events. At the 1987 World Championships in Rotterdam, Silivas won the overall bronze medal and took gold medals in the uneven bars, floor exercise, and with her Romanian team. At the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, she won medals in every event: three golds, two silvers, and a bronze. She won the overall silver medal in one of the closest all-around battles in history, finishing just .025 from the gold medal. Silivas closed her career at the 1989 World Championships in Stuttgart, winning three more gold medals. In 2002, Silivas revealed that her birthdate had been falsified by the Romanian authorities to make her age-eligible for the 1985 World Championships. She now resides in Georgia where she is a full-time coach to young gymnasts.

- 1985 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Gold Medalist - Balance Beam; Silver - Team
- 1987 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Gold Medalist - Uneven Bars (T), Floor (T), Team; Bronze - All-Around
- 1988 OLYMPIC GAMES - Gold - Uneven Bars, Balance Beam, Floor Exercise; Silver - All-Around, Team; Bronze Medalist - Vault
- 1989 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Gold Medalist - Balance Beam, Uneven Bars (T), Floor Exercise (T); Silver - Team
1976 OLYMPIC GAMES
  Silver Medalist
  - Uneven Bars
  Bronze Medalist
  - Balance Beam

2001 Inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame
1984 OLYMPIC GAMES - Gold – Vault - Beam (tie) - Floor; Silver Medalist - All-Around
1983 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Gold - Floor; Silver - Vault (tie) - Uneven Bars (tie); Bronze- All-Around
1985 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Silver – Vault - Beam
1987 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - Bronze - Beam
1999

Frank Bare
Miroslav Cerar
Yukio Endo
Eugen Mack
Nelli Kim
Yuri Titov
1998

Vera Caslavska

Takashi Ono

Savino Guglielmetti

Cathy Rigby

Larissa Latynina

Peter Vidmar

Ludmilla Tourischeva
1997

Bart Conner

Jack Gunthard

Mary Lou Retton

Masao Takemoto

Arthur Gander

Bela Karolyi

Leon Stukelj
NADIA COMANECI, the most celebrated gymnast in the history of gymnastics, has left a competitive record that will be virtually impossible to match or surpass. She was the star of the 1976 Montreal Olympics, where she became the very first woman to score a perfect 10 on her way to winning three Gold medals, one Silver and one Bronze. She appeared on the covers of Time, Newsweek and Sports Illustrated, all in the same week. Nadia continued her dominance through the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, where she won two Gold and two Silver medals. In 1984, Nadia was awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee.

1975 European Championships – Gold - All Around
1976 OLYMPIC GAMES - Gold - All Around - Beam - Uneven Bars - 1st Perfect 10; Silver – Team; Bronze - Floor Exercise
1977 European Championships - Gold - All Around
1979 European Championships - Gold - All Around
1979 World Cup - Gold - All Around - Beam - Uneven Bar
1980 OLYMPIC GAMES - Gold - Beam – Floor; Silver - All Around - Team
1981 World University Games - Gold - All Around - Vault - Uneven Bars - Beam - Floor - Team
1984 Awarded the Olympic Order
1988

Olga Korbut

International Order of Merit
The International Gymnastics Hall of Fame presents THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT award to an individual who has been determined by his or her peers to have made a most significant contribution to the development, the maintaining of harmony, the advancement of participation and appreciation for the sport of gymnastics in their homeland, their region and the world of sport. Such contribution must be obvious within their homeland and region and must be known to those involved in gymnastics in their region.

2011 International Order of Merit Award:

Michel Leglise (France)

With an extensive background in sports medicine, Dr. Michel Leglise continues to make vast and significant contributions through his various roles in gymnastics. Serving the International Gymnastics Federation since 1982, Dr. Leglise is currently president of the FIG's medical and anti-doping commissions, and is a member of the FIG scientific commission. He is also First Vice President of the FIG, and a member of its executive committee.

Holding degrees in biology, sports medicine, occupational medicine and ergonomics, Dr. Leglise has written numerous articles on growth, biology and the athlete's spine. For the International Olympic Committee, he is coordinator for the medical commission's sport, child and adolescents working group, as well as serving on the cultural commission for the Youth Olympic Games.

2010 International Order of Merit Award:
**Eileen Langsley (Great Britain)**

From 1984-2001, Ms. Langsley was the official photographer for the International Gymnastics Federation, which published two coffee table books (1996, 2000) of her beautiful work. A native of Sheffield, England, Langsley was the sport's most influential photographer whose images filled the pages of numerous gymnastics publications worldwide. Her photos also were featured on 93 covers of International Gymnast magazine.

**2009 International Order of Merit Award:**

**Margaret Sikkens Ahlquist (Sweden)**

Ms. Ahlquist is recognized for her generous and inspired leadership in bringing gymnastics to a wider audience the world over. She is a member of the International Olympic Committee's Sports for All Commission, as well as the Federation Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG). She serves at President of the Gymnastics for All Committee.

**2008 International Order of Merit Award:**

**Prof. Ludwig Schweizer (Germany)**

Perhaps no one has been more influential in our sport's development. He is recognized for his dedication and research in standardization and safety testing with regard to gymnastic equipment that has advanced performances over the past 25 years. He was a former gymnast who studied sport sciences for eight years at the University of Freiburg. In 1983, he joined the FIG and began the task of establishing standards for gymnastics equipment. He is now on the faculty at the University of Freiburg, Germany.

**2007 International Order of Merit Award:**

**Vicelia Florenzano (Brazil)**

Ms. Florenzano was recognized for her contributions to the growth of gymnastics in her home country of Brazil, and throughout her region of the world. During her years of service to the sport, she has held many prestigious positions, including:
- President, Pan American Union
- President, Brazilian Gymnastics Federation
- Member, Executive Committee, FIG

**2006 International Order of Merit Award:**

**Ulrich Spieth (Germany)**
Ulrich “Uli” Spieth has been a revered and respected figure on the international gymnastics scene for more than 30 years. As managing director of the Spieth equipment company, and a long-time advisor to the FIG and countless national gymnastics federations, Uli has contributed both technical and visionary guidance to the sport of gymnastics, through equipment innovations, safety improvements, technical standards and manufacturing excellence.

2005 International Order of Merit Award:

Daniel Baumat (Switzerland)

Daniel Baumat, as president of Swiss Timing, has contributed innumerable technical advancements to the process of collecting, tabulating and displaying the scores for Olympic, World and European gymnastics competitions. Indeed, Mr. Baumat’s staff and Swiss Timing equipment have played a pivotal role in some of our sport’s most historic moments – such as in Montreal, during the 1976 Olympics, when Swiss Timing displays flashed the first perfect 10.0 scores in Olympic history, earned by Hall of Fame legend Nadia Comaneci.

2004 International Order of Merit Award:

Dr. Zakaria Ahmad (Malaysia)

Dr. “Zak” Ahmad has played an extraordinary role in growing the sport of gymnastics, at all levels, throughout Asia and the Pacific Rim. His countless contributions throughout his career have included his tenure as:
- President, Malaysian Gymnastics Federation
- President, Asian Gymnastics Confederation

2003 International Order of Merit Award:

Norbert Bueche (Switzerland)

Perhaps the noblest statesman the International Gymnastics Federation has ever known, Norbert Bueche served as the Secretary General of the FIG for many decades. As the inaugural recipient of the IGHOF’s International Order of Merit, Mr. Bueche and his tireless and distinguished service to the growth and integrity of the sport of gymnastics epitomizes the spirit and meaning of this prestigious award.

Nadia Comaneci Sportsmanship Award
The International Gymnastics Hall of Fame (IGHOF) will be honoring Olympian Jordyn Wieber with the first Nadia Comaneci Sportmanship Award at the 2013 induction ceremony on May 18.

The Nadia Comaneci Sportmanship Award honors a currently competitive or recently retired gymnast from around the world who has demonstrated great sportsmanship or fair play. Wieber, who was a member of USA's "Fierce Five" gymnastics team at the 2012 London Olympics, is a two-time World Champion, and now an Olympic Gold Medalist.

1993 IGHOF inductee and Olympic Gold Medalist Nadia Comaneci is thrilled to honor Wieber with the award.

The Frank Bare Award
The International Gymnastics Hall of Fame (IGHOF) presents THE FRANK BARE AWARD to individuals who have made exceptional contributions in promoting and growing the sport of gymnastics throughout the United States. This new award celebrates the legacy of its namesake, the long-time IGHOF chairman of the board, who passed away in 2011. Mr. Bare was one of the most beloved leaders and admired statesmen in the history of gymnastics in the United States. While serving as the first executive director of the U.S. Gymnastics Federation, he guided the sport into its golden age of popularity. Mr. Bare conceived of and staged promotional tours and competitions, including the American Cup, that introduced much of the world to such legendary stars as Nadia Comaneci, Bart Conner, Olga Korbut, Cathy Rigby, Nikolai Andrianov, Kurt Thomas and dozens more.

"There is a magical appeal, a universal spark at the core of gymnastics, and Frank Bare found countless ways to share it with the world," said Bart Conner, IGHOF board president. "The Frank Bare Award celebrates individuals who, like Frank, have enabled all of us to tap into that magic and discover its power to inspire excellence. The Frank Bare Award is sponsored in-part by our dear friend, and longtime gymnastics supporter Jana Poland, of Dallas, Texas."

**2012 Frank Bare Award:**

**Doug Wilson (United States)**

The inaugural recipient of The Frank Bare Award is Doug Wilson. As an Emmy award-winning television producer/director for ABC's Wide World of Sports, Mr. Wilson made significant contributions to popularizing gymnastics during the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s. He directed the gymnastics telecasts from several Olympiads, including Olga Korbut's dramatic debut during the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. Nadia Comaneci's first step into the U.S. spotlight at the 1976 American Cup in Madison Square Garden, as well as gymnastics legend Vera Caslavska's 1964 and 1968 Olympic triumphs, were seen by millions, thanks to broadcasts produced and directed by Mr. Wilson and the team at ABC's Wide World of Sports.